

this all across my district, with digital haves and have-nots just down the road from one another. It is a checkerboard of connectivity.

In the height of the pandemic, I heard one too many home-schooling horror stories that were a result of not having reliable access to the internet. A number of families were driving to the nearest local library, sitting in the parking lot, and connecting to the public WiFi in hopes of completing assignments.

COVID-19 laid bare the urgency of rural broadband, but the connectivity struggles in rural communities predate this pandemic, and they will not ease as we return to normal. As more of American life is being put online, more of it is being put out of reach of Americans without high-speed internet access, and those without are falling further behind.

Despite years of efforts and billions of dollars spent, too many communities are being left behind.

Broadband is not just needed for our homes; it is desperately needed on our farms as well. The demands of a 21st century farm economy depends on reliable connectivity.

The Agriculture Committee has done tremendous work on a bipartisan basis to address the digital divide, most recently with the broadband provisions in the 2018 farm bill. Those changes reflected 2 years of work to develop policies and design programs which meet the unique challenges of rural communities. That farm bill became law with broad bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Unfortunately, those policies and programs are languishing. Changes and improvements championed by Members of both parties regarding eligible areas, long-term network viability, assistance for our most rural communities, program integrity, and more, remain unfunded and unimplemented more than 2 years after they were signed into law.

This is unacceptable. That is why I recently introduced the Broadband for Rural America Act. This bill is the responsible path forward to bridging the digital divide. It prioritizes the needs of rural communities and is a step in the right direction as we begin to rebound into a resurgent post-COVID economy. I urge my colleagues to join me on this critical piece of legislation.

The one issue that unites rural Members on both sides of the aisle is the need to address the digital divide. This critical infrastructure void has been exacerbated by the challenges faced by rural families and businesses during the pandemic.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to tell the story of the 2018 farm bill and the improvements we made and continue to fight for broadband investments so desperately needed in our rural communities.

RECOGNIZING PRIDE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in support of the LGBTQ community and to recognize this Pride Month.

This month is one of reflection: reflection on the strides our country has made toward acceptance and inclusion and on the struggles that still exist today.

From Stonewall, to the AIDS epidemic, to attacks on transgender youth across our country today, the struggle for equality continues.

This month is one of recognition for the trailblazers of decades past and the advocates on the ground today who make this country welcoming for everyone.

But most of all, this month is one of celebration. I am here to say loudly and clearly to all of my LGBTQ constituents in Nevada's Third District, you are respected and loved, and I have your back here in Washington.

While we mark 6 years of marriage equality this week and have continued to reach milestones in the time since, we have more work to do.

I am proud to have voted to pass the Equality Act out of the House, and it is time for the Senate to join us.

I hope you all take time this month to celebrate who you are. And from the bottom of my heart, Happy Pride Month.

HONORING CHRIS OBERHEIM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Champaign Police Officer Chris Oberheim of Monticello, Illinois, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty on May 19 of this year.

Officer Oberheim was a 21-year veteran of law enforcement. He joined the Champaign Police Department in 2013 after beginning his career with the Decatur Police Department in 2000. During his career, he received two medals of valor for selfless acts of bravery.

In his time off duty, Chris enjoyed coaching softball and spending time with his family. He was a loving husband, father, son, coach, and trusted friend. His four daughters were his inspiration. Those who knew Chris remember him most for his commitment to loving his family and serving his community.

My prayers are with his wife, Amber, and daughters Hannah, Avery, Addison, and Aubree, as well as the rest of his family, friends, and fellow officers. Chris was nothing short of a hero.

In closing, I would like to share a Bible verse that Chris' family says he lived by: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

HONORING GRACE HERSCHELMAN

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grace Herschelman of Hillsboro, Illinois, who passed away on May 19 at the age of 9 after a lifelong battle with infantile neuroaxonal dystrophy, INAD.

When Grace was 3 years old, she was diagnosed with INAD, a neurodegenerative disease that results in a loss of muscle strength, movement, and the ability to speak. Grace did not let this stop her from enjoying many trips to the Saint Louis Zoo; rooting on her favorite soccer, softball, and basketball teams; and having a blast with her sister and best friend, Charlotte.

Grace and her family also had a huge impact on awareness and fundraising for INAD research. Since Grace was diagnosed in 2014, the Herschelman family has raised about \$200,000 for the INAD Cure Foundation, with donors from all 50 States.

Grace was an inspiration to all who met her, never failing to light up any room with her smile.

My prayers go out to her parents, Kyle and Mary, her sister, Charlotte, and the rest of her family.

Grace, may you rest in peace.

CONGRATULATING MARK BUTCHER

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Butcher on his retirement after 30 years of teaching math and science in the Rochester school district, Lincoln Christian University, and Lincoln Land Community College.

After working in the private sector for many years, Mark decided to go back to school to get his teaching certificate in 1991. Ever since then, he has taught at Rochester and also part-time at night at Lincoln Land where he would frequent my family's McDonald's in Taylorville for a quick dinner.

Over the past 30 years, Mark has taught, mentored, and given valuable career advice to thousands of students. Mark is known for his Einstein-like appearance and science experiments, which were highly educational but sometimes caused heartburn among the administration and school board members. He was instrumental in developing the dual credit program at Rochester, which has allowed hundreds of students to receive college credit for courses while still in high school.

Mark received numerous awards throughout his career, including the Rochester Teacher of the Year, the Golden Apple Excellence in Leadership award, Lincoln Land's Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award, and being named the State Journal Register's Top Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations on your retirement, Mark. Enjoy your time with your wife, Brenda, four children, and your six grandchildren.

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARVIN ALTON HYATT, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Marvin Alton Hyatt, Sr.

Marvin passed away on May 7, 2021, and returned to the God he faithfully served for 87 years.

Marvin was born in Dillon, South Carolina on May 12, 1933. He attended and graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1959, with a degree in pharmacy, and later established a scholarship fund within the University of South Carolina School of Pharmacy for those students choosing to enter the lifelong profession that he loved and cherished for so long.

He founded Good Pharmacy in Rock Hill, South Carolina, which he operated for 58 years. Marvin was the face of Good Pharmacy, where he greeted everyone with a smile, true compassion, and a desire to serve the hundreds of customers, regardless of race, standing in life, or ability to pay.

Marvin was legendary for meeting anyone, anywhere, at any time, and was genuinely concerned and interested in the well-being of his customers. In short, when it came to customer service, Marvin Hyatt not only talked the talk, but he walked the walk, which is rare in today's world.

Marvin Hyatt was active in his church, Woodland Methodist, for over 60 years, where he served as treasurer and as a board member. His community service included serving as a board member of Guardian Fidelity bank, WRHI radio station; past president of the Sertoma Club, Rotary Club, Elks Lodge, and the Alexa R. Good ALS Foundation.

Marvin was married to the love of his life, Lois Jones Hyatt, for 63 years. Together, they had two children: Marvin Alton Hyatt, Jr., and Laura Hyatt Sweat, both of whom are registered pharmacists and are working in Good Pharmacy today. Marvin and Lois have three grandchildren: Alton, Katie Jane, and Tyler.

The legacy of Marvin Alton Hyatt will be that of a man who served his God, his country, and his fellow man. He exemplified service above self, and for the 87 years that he walked on this Earth, his life was a true testament of living out his Christian faith in word and in deed.

O.V. LEWIS CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor O.V. Lewis of Blairsville, Georgia, for his 90th birthday on June 16.

O.V. has dedicated the majority of his life to Young Harris College. He

served as an instructor of accounting for 48 years, and registrar for 31 years at Young Harris College, and retired with the longest tenure of any previous employee.

During his time at the school, Lewis had an unparalleled commitment to his students, both inside and outside the classroom, that has lasted well beyond graduation. Those who have been influenced by Lewis, such as myself, praise his positive impact on their education and career.

Throughout his whole life, Lewis has been generous with his time, talent, and resources as he continues to devote his life to improving those around him.

As a graduate of Young Harris College, I am proud to rise today to recognize O.V. Lewis's 90th birthday and lifetime of mentoring and inspiring our future generations.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRITZ NOACK

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor the life of Fritz Noack, who passed away on June 3, 2021.

After serving as an organ building apprentice in Germany, Fritz immigrated to the United States and founded the Noack Organ Company in 1960 in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

As a leading figure of the organ revival movement, Fritz influenced the American organ building scene during the late 20th century. After priding himself on the production of first-rate organs for 55 years, Fritz retired in 2015.

Fritz directed the construction of 160 organs during his time in the industry. His instruments are found across America, as well as Iceland and Japan. In fact, Fritz's 100th organ is located at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church in Savannah, Georgia. The music provided by this organ has entertained the congregation of Wesley Monumental for many years, and I am certain Fritz's legacy will continue through his instruments around the world.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HARRY STRACK

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Harry Strack for his remarkable service to our country.

Harry was drafted into the military in 1968, and completed his basic training at Fort Bragg. He served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, in the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Harry has become a recognized veteran in the Sea Isle community by sharing his story and honoring those who served alongside him. Since returning from Vietnam, Harry has been proud to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

During the Sea Isle Memorial Day ceremony, Harry received a Quilt of Valor to recognize his selfless service and sacrifice. Harry's pride in his service and duty to honor and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice is extraordinary, and I am honored to recognize him today.

I know that everyone in Georgia's First Congressional District thanks him for his service.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JAMES OWENS AS A PROVISIONAL ELDER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend James Owens' commission as a provisional elder in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Reverend Owens has served at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church in Savannah, Georgia, for the past 7 years. Before moving to Savannah, Reverend Owens earned a bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of Georgia and a master of divinity from Denver Seminary and Duke University Divinity School.

As a provisional elder, Reverend Owens will faithfully serve Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church and the Savannah community. With his passion to share and teach the gospel, I know Reverend Owens will continue his tremendous work as a provisional elder at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

I am proud to rise today to recognize Reverend Owens for his tremendous achievement, and I know that he will continue to inspire his congregation.

THE STAFF AT THE ARC OF SOUTH CAROLINA ARE HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend an incredible effort put forth in my State during the pandemic.

The Arc of South Carolina is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their work is critical in South Carolina and South Carolina's First Congressional District, and they deserve to be recognized for all of their efforts.

Like many organizations during the past year and a half, the Arc of South Carolina has struggled to acquire PPE, hiring staff, and coping with different social distancing guidelines, particularly given the scope of their work.

Margie Williamson and her team had to continue providing services at disproportionately high costs compared to businesses who received State and Federal assistance. A staggering number of their staff fell ill to COVID-19 during the pandemic, but their team and their organization was able to provide superior support to all of these families with enormous needs nonetheless.

I cannot begin to thank the staff, not only at the Arc of South Carolina, but every worker across the State everywhere who persevered. You are the heroes of South Carolina's pandemic story.

The Arc of South Carolina is dedicated to helping families, and I wanted to highlight all they were able to accomplish during the most challenging of times.